

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 ARAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00  
USIE-00 INRE-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-13  
JUSE-00 NSAE-00 SNM-02 TRSE-00 NSC-05 OES-07  
OMB-01 H-01 L-03 SS-15 PRS-01 PA-01 SCA-01 SCS-03  
DHA-02 A-01 /090 W  
-----011223 301802Z /46

O 301500Z JUN 77

FM AMCONSUL BELIZE

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5689

AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA IMMEDIATE

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STATE PASS DEA

GUATEMALA AND MEXICO FOR DEA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR

SUBJECT: MIAMI HERALD ARTICLE LINKING GOB OFFICIALS TO ILLICIT  
NARCOTICS TRAFFIC

1. ARTICLE IN JUNE 29 MIAMI HERALD UNDER HEADING "NARCOTICS  
AGENTS INVESTIGATED BELIZE LEADER, AIDES" REPORTING ON TRIAL  
OF AMCIT JACK BREWER FOR SMUGGLING HEROIN INTO U. S. CAN BE EX-  
PECTED TO HAVE SERIOUSLY DAMAGING EFFECTS ON OUR RELATIONS WITH  
GOB IF NOT ADEQUATELY AND PROMPTLY HANDLED BY WASHINGTON  
AGENCIES.

2. GOVERNOR MCENTEE TELEPHONED ME LAST NIGHT TO EXPRESS HIS CON-  
CERN AND SAID PREMIER PRICE WAS "QUITE UPSET" ABOUT THE ARTICLE  
BECAUSE OF THE MANNER IN WHICH HIS OPPOSITION CAN BE EXPECTED TO  
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EXPLOIT IT. H. E. SAID HE HOPED THE DEA OR THE STATE DEPARTMENT  
WOULD HAVE SOME STATEMENT TO MAKE WHICH MIGHT AMELIORATE THE BAD  
SITUATION EXPECTED HERE.

3. TROUBLESOME INFERENCES WHICH WILL BE DRAWN FROM ARTICLE ARE:

A) THAT DEA WAS ATTEMPTING BY MEANS OF AN UNDERCOVER AGENT TO

ESTABLISH THAT PREMIER PRICE, DEPUTY PREMIER ROGERS, MINISTER SYLVESTER AND LEBANESE HONORARY CONSUL ABOU-NEHRA WERE INVOLVED IN HEROIN TRAFFIC INTO U. S.

B) THAT, AS ALLEGED BY BREWER'S DEFENSE COUNSEL "THE AIM OF THE DEA OPERATION WAS TO IMPLICATE THE BELIZE GOVERNMENT LEADERS IN DRUG SMUGGLING AND TO CAUSE A SCANDAL THAT WOULD 'CAUSE THEM TO FALL IN DISREPUTE' ".

C) THAT DEA'S REGIONAL DIRECTOR IN SEATTLE TRIED TO SUPPRESS STORY BY ADMONISHING REPORTER THAT HE HAD "AN OBLIGATION NOT TO DISCLOSE SOMETHING WHICH WOULD EMBARRASS THE GOVERNMENT OR HAVE AN IMPACT ON OUR FOREIGN RELATIONS."

4. RATHER THAN HAVE DEA MAKE A STATEMENT, I HAVE CONCLUDED IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO HAVE STATE DAPT SPOKESMEN SAY SOMETHING LIKE THIS:

WE WOULD VERY MUCH REGRET ANY UNWARRANTED INFERENCES WHICH MIGHT BE DRAWN FROM MEDIA COVERAGE OF THE BREWER CASE BY ELEMENTS UNFRIENDLY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF PREMIER PRICE IN BELIZE. OUR RELATIONS WITH THE LATTER ARE ENTIRELY FRIENDLY AND WE WOULD BE VERY SORRY IF THIS INCIDENT WERE TO CAUSE HIM EMBARRASSMENT. THE ALLEGATION ATTRIBUTED TO BREWER'S DEFENSE COUNSEL TO THE EFFECT THE AIM OF THE DEA WAS TO "CAUSE A SCANDAL THAT WOULD CAUSE THEM TO FALL IN DISREPUTE" IS TOTALLY DEVOID OF ANY FACTUAL BASIS.  
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IT MAY APPEAR TO SOME THAT THERE WAS A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF OVERZEALOUSNESS ON THE PART OF SOME OF THE DEA OFFICIALS INVOLVED IN THIS CASE. WHAT YOU HAVE TO REMEMBER, THOUGH, IS THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE ILLICIT DRUG PROBLEM IN THE UNITED STATES AND THE PRESSURES ON THE DEA TO IDENTIFY AND PROSECUTE THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE TRAFFIC OF ILLICIT DRUGS INTO THIS COUNTRY. APPARENTLY THE DEA AUTHORITIES HANDLING THIS CASE CONCLUDED THAT SOME OF THE INITIAL STATEMENTS MADE BY BREWER MIGHT MERIT FURTHER INVESTIGATION AND AT ONE POINT SOME THOUGHT WAS BEING GIVEN TO HOW THIS MIGHT BE ACCOMPLISHED. HOWEVER, I UNDERSTAND THE ALLEGATIONS CONTAINED IN BREWER'S INITIAL STATEMENTS HAVE BEEN DROPPED AND DO NOT NOW CONSTITUTE AN ELEMENT IN HIS DEFENSE. THE ESSENTIAL FACT IS THAT DEA IS NOT CONTEMPLATING ANY INVESTIGATION OF ANY OFFICIALS OF THE BELIZE GOVERNMENT.

5. IF DEPARTMENT PERCEIVES NO OBJECTION, I PLAN TO HANDLE LOCAL PRESS INQUIRIES ALONG THESE LINES.  
GAWF

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, CORRUPTION, DRUG TRAFFIC, ALLEGATIONS, GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES  
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**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Subject:** MIAMI HERALD ARTICLE LINKING GOB OFFICIALS TO ILLICIT NARCOTICS TRAFFIC  
**TAGS:** SNAR, SOPN, BH, US, MIAMI HERALD  
**To:** LONDON STATE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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